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10/680,859	10/07/2003	Victoria A. Locke	END920030034US1	5819

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EXAMINER	
GYORFI, THOMAS A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2435	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/10/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	**Application No.**	**Applicant(s)**	
	10/680,859	LOCKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Thomas Gyorfi	2435	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 August 2008*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-7,9-13 and 15-20* is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-7,9-13 and 15-20* is/are rejected.
7)☒ Claim(s) *10 and 16* is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13, and 15-20 remain for examination. The correspondence filed 8/1/08 amended claims 1, 7, 13, & 20; and cancelled claims 3, 8 & 14.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/1/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 8/1/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Although the Examiner appreciates the Applicant's latest explanation of the instant invention in plain language, Examiner remains unconvinced that there exists any non-trivial distinction between the P-Synch prior art and the claimed invention. In response to the amended independent claims, Examiner would like to draw Applicant's attention to pages 166-172, "5.13.3 WINKEY agent scripts", which explains in detail what Examiner believes to be, based on the various claim limitations and Applicant's remarks over the course of the prosecution history, the crux of the instant invention: namely, the ability for a password changing tool to use scripts that simulate keystrokes

to change one or more passwords to one or more accounts of a user. Specifically, this passage describes as one non-limiting example the use of a script to change a user's Lotus Notes password, wherein the script (which is stored in the password changing facility) also includes executable code and parameters needed to change the password for the application ("executable code" being the keywords in the scripting language disclosed across pages 167-168, with the parameters being the passwords and user ids represented by %u, %o, and the like on page 169); and also stores readable instructions for changing the password for the application (the example script stores the messages "Enter Password" and "Set Password" – i.e. readable, albeit rudimentary, instructions for changing a password – which the script is required to recognize before continuing with the change password operations - see the "`waitfor`" statements on page 171). Examiner respectfully maintains that the instant invention is at best an obvious variation over the prior art, and is therefore unpatentable.

Claim Objections

4. Applicant is advised that should claims 7 and 13 be found allowable, claims 10 and 16 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Claims 7 and 13 were amended to incorporate these limitations; thus claims 10 & 16 fail to further limit the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the P-Synch Installation and Administration Guide (Software version 4.2, Document Version 4.50, last changed 6/1/2000; hereinafter "P-Synch") in view of "Using Privacy Features" web page (hereinafter, "Mozilla").

Regarding claim 1:

P-Synch discloses a tool for managing passwords, comprising: storage for a plurality of current passwords for a plurality of respective applications (password history, pages 33 & 34), and for each of said applications: a description of the application (page 27, "3.1.2 Target system information"), a description of the password type for the application (Ibid); previous passwords for the application (page 7, "Password history"), a Uniform Resource Locator for the application (page 27, "3.1.2 Target system information"; cf. page 28, Table 3.1), executable code and parameters needed to change the password for the application (pages 167-169) and readable instructions for changing the password for the application (the "`waitfor`" instructions on page 171); means for displaying a reminder to change one or more passwords (page 14, "Expiry detection and password aging"); and a script for simulating keystroke entries to automatically perform a password change in said respective applications for said current passwords of said reminder (Ibid, and pages 13-14 and 167-172) wherein the tool displays a list of the passwords, a description of the computer applications, a description of the procedure for changing the password, and a graphical user interface (pages 13-15, “WWW GUI” and “Windows GUI”; pages 54-55, “HOST statement” and Table 4.1; pages 69-70, disclosing the means by which this information is displayed; pages 246-247, Tables 8.6 and 8.7; while further observing that as the scripts are by definition a description of the procedure for changing the password, the ability to display the scripts for at least the purpose of editing them reads on that limitation); and a user uses the graphical user interface to invoke the scripts needed to change the passwords (pages 13-15, “WWW GUI" and “Windows GUI”), and the script tests proposed new passwords to determine if said proposed new passwords meet a defined criteria, and the script changes a password only if the proposed new password meets the defined criteria (page 7, “Password strength rules”; page 11, “Enforcing strong password rules…”); and the tool having multiple degrees of security so that different users have different types of access to the tool (Help-desk users vs. end-users: see page 11, the third and fourth bullet points; see also users vs. administrators on page 169).

It is observed that the password storage area for holding previous passwords cited above is not used to store current passwords (page 60), although this is not to say that current passwords cannot be stored somewhere within the P-Synch tool, as knowledge of a current password is still required for the P-Synch scripts to function correctly (e.g. page 127, “`Verify`” bullet point, and page 169, “%o” the user’s old password). However, it is observed that at least one embodiment of P-Synch is a web application, wherein a WWW browser is a required component of the overall P-Synch tool to change one's passwords on the web (e.g. page 13, “WWW GUI”). Mozilla discloses the existence of a web browser comprising a password manager tool with storage for a user’s current passwords, as well as the ability to view them (Mozilla, pages 5-8, “Using the Password Manager”. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the Mozilla web browser with the Password Manager component as the web browser component of the P-Synch tool, as the substitution of the Mozilla web browser in lieu of the generic web browser disclosed by P-Synch would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Additionally, one would be motivated to incorporate storage for current passwords because Mozilla discloses wherein doing so because it facilitates subsequent logins to one's preferred web sites (page 7, “Entering User Names and Passwords Automatically”).

Regarding claims 7 and 13:

P-Synch discloses a method and program storage device comprising: accumulating a set of passwords in a password management facility, each of said passwords being associated with a computer application having a password change procedure (pages 13-15, “2.2.1 User Password Changes”); storing in the password management facility, for each of said applications: a description of the application (page 27, “3.1.2 Target system information”), a description of the password type for the application (Ibid); previous passwords for the application (page 7, “Password history”), a Uniform Resource Locator for the application (page 27, “3.1.2. Target system information"; cf. page 28, Table 3.1), executable code and parameters needed to change the password for the application (pages 167-169) and readable instructions for changing the password for the application (the "`waitfor`" instructions on page 171); means for displaying a reminder to change one or more passwords (page 14, "Expiry detection and password aging"); providing the password management facility with a set of scripts to operate the password change procedures of the associated applications (pages 13-15) by simulating keystroke entries (e.g. pages 167-172); and a user invoking the password management facility (Ibid: "With a WWW GUI, users change their passwords from their browser", etc.), said facility, when invoked, displaying a list of the passwords, a description of the computer applications, a description of a procedure for changing the password, and a graphical user interface (pages 13-15, "WWW GUI" and "Windows GUI"; pages 54-55, "HOST statement" and Table 4.1; pages 69-70, the means to display the information; pages 246-247, Tables 8.6 and 8.7; while further observing that as the scripts are by definition a description of the procedure for changing the password, the ability to display the scripts for at least the purpose of editing them reads on that limitation); and using said graphical user interface to invoke or activate the scripts needed to change the passwords (pages 13-15, Ibid), including the steps of the scripts testing proposed new passwords to determine if said proposed new passwords meet a defined criteria, and the scripts changing a password only if the proposed new password meets the defined criteria (page 7, "Password strength rules"; page 11, "Enforcing strong password rules…") and the password management facility having multiple degrees of security so that different users have different types of access to the tool (Help-desk users vs. end-users: see page 11, the third and fourth bullet points; see also users vs. administrators on page 169).

It is observed that the password storage area for holding previous passwords cited above is not used to store current passwords (page 60), although this is not to say that current passwords cannot be stored somewhere within the P-Synch system, as knowledge of a current password is still required for the P-Synch scripts to function correctly (e.g. page 127, “`Verify`” bullet point; and page 169, “%o” the user’s old password). However, it is observed that at least one embodiment of P-Synch is a web application, wherein a WWW browser is a required component of the overall P-Synch tool to change one's passwords on the web (e.g. page 13, “WWW GUI”). Mozilla discloses the existence of a web browser comprising a password manager tool with storage for a user’s current passwords, as well as the ability to view them (Mozilla, pages 5-8, “Using the Password Manager”. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the Mozilla web browser with the Password Manager component as the web browser component of the P-Synch system, as the substitution of the Mozilla web browser in lieu of the generic web browser disclosed by P-Synch would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Additionally, one would be motivated to incorporate storage for current passwords because Mozilla discloses wherein doing so because it facilitates subsequent logins to one's preferred web sites (page 7, “Entering User Names and Passwords Automatically”).

Regarding claims 2, 11, and 17:

P-Synch further discloses wherein the applications are selected from the group including workstation applications, legacy host applications, server applications, and networked applications (Table 3.1 on page 28).

Regarding claims 4, 9, and 15:

P-Synch further discloses wherein the graphical user interface includes a series of activatable display elements, each display element being shown adjacent to one of the passwords to invoke script for changing said one password (pages 13-15).

Regarding claim 5:

P-Synch further discloses wherein at least some of the applications include a password change form and require a series of actions to get to the password change form, and the script includes means to perform said series of actions to get to the password change form (e.g. the sample script on pages 192-193).

Regarding claims 6, 12, and 18:

P-Synch and Mozilla further discloses wherein the passwords are encrypted in said storage (P-Synch: pages 33 and 34, bullet point “`hist\`”; Mozilla: page 12).

Regarding claims 10 and 16:

P-Synch further discloses wherein each of the scripts simulates a set of keystroke entries or an executable program to change the password for one of the applications (Telnet scripts and Native APIs, respectively, on pages 13-15; cf. the sample scripts on pages 167-172 and 192-193).

Regarding claim 19:

P-Synch further discloses wherein the defined criteria are based on data from a user table (the user's password history table, pages 33 and 34).

Regarding claim 20:

P-Synch further discloses displaying user prompts to obtain information from the user when a script or code is invoked to change one of the passwords (pages 13-15); encrypting all of the data stored in the facility (pages 33 & 34, bullet point "`hist\`"; cf. pages 346-347); the script, based on a user identification, queries an employee table to determine an employee class associated with the user identification (page 207); and said criteria include [i] a proposed new password differs from a current password by a given number of characters (page 59, see the rule designated "`mincharschanged=N`") [ii] criteria based on data from user tables, user profile tables, and user history tables (page 7, "Password history"; page 36, line item #6; page 224, "End-user interface"); [iii] the user belongs to a certain class of employees (pages 35-36, and 207); and [iv] the proposed password must contain a number of alphabet characters, a number of numeric characters, and a number of punctuation characters (the `minletters = N`, `mindigits = N`, and `minpunctuation = N` requirements, respectively, page 59).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Gyorfi whose telephone number is (571)272-3849. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TAG
11/25/08
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